

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1950.

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

1951.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1950.

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

1951.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART TIME) :

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JOHN BITTLESTONE, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

RODENT OFFICER :

MR. A. T. SMITH.

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS ALICE BARRASS, Shorthand Typist.

SECTION A.

DURHAM,

September, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my twenty-first annual report being that for the year 1950, and as it happens my last, and I think the most favourable.

Vital statistics indicate a most gratifying position. Some increase in the birth rate, some decline in the death rate and an extremely low infant mortality. The latter is an achievement and reflects the success that has resulted from the various efforts made to make childbirth safe and infant life secure.

Cardiovascular disease now claims the title of captain of deaths, being responsible for 43% of the total. There is no doubt that a great part is avoidable and it is an urgent matter for future research.

Cancer was responsible for 13%. This disease is now under careful investigation and coming more under control.

The incidence of infectious disease was exceedingly low and the cases mild in type. The happy position is no doubt due to the accumulated immunity which the young people now enjoy.

I feel some satisfaction with the progress made on slum clearance and on housing during my time. We who knew the City thirty years ago can be pleased with the great improvement effected, but much remains to be done.

The desolate open spaces in the City main thoroughfares are not in the least respectable and should be dealt with as an urgent matter. This cannot but give to the visitor to the City Beautiful a very important impression.

In conclusion as I take leave of the Council may I say how very much I have enjoyed my years of association. I have throughout had nothing but kindness and encouragement and I leave with regret.

Finally may I say thank you to the other officials who have always extended to me most generous help and toleration and to the staff of the Health Department thank you for your supreme loyalty.

Thanks to all,

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. K. YOUNG.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OTHER RECORDS

for 1950.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1949 :—20,220

Do. do. 1950 :—20,770

Number of inhabited houses end of 1949 :—5,276.

Do. 1950 :—5,399.

Rateable value, 1949 :—£126,247 ; 1950 :—£129,105.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1949 :—£514 14s. 2d.

1950 :—£526 6s. 3d.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed men in the City at the end of 1950 was 211, as compared with 246 at the end of 1949.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	341	182	159	Birth-rate (per 1,000
Illegitimate	8	3	5	population) 16·8.

Stillbirths :—

Legitimate	11	4	7	Rate (per 1,000 total
Illegitimate	1	1	—	births) 33·24.

DEATHS.

228	106	122	Death-rate (per 1,000
			population) 10·98.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES. ... Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births	22
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births	22
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births	111

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
228	13	1	3	2	3	11	50	145

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Birth Rate	12.5	12.9	16.8	17.9	15.5	21.7	20.0	17.9	15.4	16.8
Death Rate	12.0	13.2	14.5	14.3	11.3	12.2	13.3	9.9	11.0	10.9
Infant Mortality	59	60	50	66	55	38	49	32	35	22

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE
AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1950
OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM
CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	15.8	0.37	11.6	1.9	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	17.6	0.45	12.3	2.2	33.8
148 Smaller Towns, (Esti- mated Resident Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	16.7	0.38	11.6	1.6	29.4
London	17.8	0.36	11.8	1.0	26.3
Administrative County of Durham	17.8	0.48	11.8	2.7	40.1
Durham City	16.8	0.57	10.9	5.7	37.2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1950.

Cause of Death.	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	228	106	122
Tuberculosis, respiratory	9	5	4
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	5	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	5	—	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	7	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	—
Diabetes	2	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	10	14
Coronary disease, angina	20	12	8
Hypertension with heart disease	6	4	2
Other heart disease	43	20	23
Other circulatory disease	5	2	3
Influenza	5	1	4
Pneumonia	4	2	2
Bronchitis	7	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	—	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	2	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	5	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	3	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	48	21	27
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	—
All other accidents	4	3	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	1	1	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	27	22	—
Diphtheria	6	6	—
Enteric Fever.....	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	2	—
Pneumonia	5	—	4
Erysipelas.....	1	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	5	5	—
Whooping Cough.....	47	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Measles	112	—	—

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND
DIPHTHERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	8	4	8	5	—	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	1	5	—	—	1	2	—	—
25 — 35	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 — 45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55 — 65	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and Upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	11	14	2	1	4	4	—	—

SECTION B.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the Sanitary Section of the Health Department for the year 1950.

A good deal of publicity has, in recent years, been given to the question of food hygiene and the dangers to which the public may be exposed through consumption of carelessly handled food.

There are a large number of food premises in the City and it is obvious that the supervision it is possible to give such premises is controlled by the many other duties performed by sanitary inspectors.

Nevertheless 221 visits were paid to such premises and it is pleasing to record that no difficulty was experienced in obtaining the co-operation of the managements concerned in affecting improvements where they were necessary and it is found in practice that the food trade as a whole are keenly interested in maintaining a high standard of hygiene.

It is regrettable that unavoidable restrictions in providing new houses means that for many years to come sub-standard and outworn properties must continue to be used for housing purposes. This being the case it is of some satisfaction to note that owners, in the majority of cases, promptly attended to requests to carry out necessary repairs to their properties.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation for the co-operation and assistance they have always so readily given in the successful working of this Section of the Department.

In conclusion I wish to tender my sincere appreciation for the help and courtesy always extended to me by the then Medical Officer of Health, Dr. S. K. Young, who retired at 31st December, 1950. My thanks are also due to my colleague Mr. J. Bittlestone and the Department's clerical staff for their excellent work during the past year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LESLIE OATES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE
YEAR 1950.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Notices Complied.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions	—	—	—
Structural Defects	157	18	126
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Lodging-houses	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	—	—	—
Cowsneds	—	—	—
Bake houses	2	—	2
Slaughter-houses	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	5	—	5
Waterclosets	24	—	20
Defective Yard Paving	1	—	1
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps	2	—	1
No Disconnection from Sewers	1	—	1
Other Faults	19	9	18
Water Supply	3	—	3
Pigsties	1	—	1
Animals Improperly Kept	1	—	1
Offensive Trades	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	9	—	9
Lack of proper Dust Bins	21	—	16
Fishfriers	1	—	1
Factories	11	—	11
Shops	12	—	12
TOTALS	270	27	228

II.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	44
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	36
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	nil
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	nil

III.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year	133
Number of such Houses occupied during year	118
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	nil
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	nil
Total number of Water-closets in District	6084
Total number of Ash-closets in District	56
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District	26

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)...	432
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	1,448
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	nil
3.		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	1
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	168

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	95
--	----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	27
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners...	20
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	5

B.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners...	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
---	-----

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

During the year 1,235 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 168 informal notices for the remedying of various public health nuisances and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

In 27 cases of non-compliance statutory notices were served on the owners.

This action resulted in the owners carrying out the necessary works in 22 cases and the Corporation doing the work in default and recovering costs in five cases. In the remaining two cases further action may be necessary.

527 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 133 houses were erected in the City area comprising 102 council houses and 31 privately built houses.

At 31st December, 1950, the number of council houses erected since the war totalled 506.

The total number of houses built for, and controlled by the Council, was, at the date mentioned, 1,146.

In addition to these properties the Council have, by arrangement, with the North-Eastern Housing Association, Ltd., the letting of 365 houses owned by that Association.

The serious shortage of houses continues to make difficult the demolition of condemned properties but progress, though it has been slow, is still being made in this direction by closing of the dangerous and most insanitary properties as they become vacant.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide accommodation in slum clearance areas to those people on the Council's waiting list who are in urgent need of temporary homes. Nevertheless it was found possible to help a few particularly needy small families who, for various reasons, found it impossible to remain at their previous addresses.

The Council have given serious consideration to the future use of certain areas which, by reason of action under the Housing Acts, are at present vacant or occupied by derelict properties. These clearance areas, particularly when they are situated in main thoroughfares, are very unsightly and it is hoped that the Council's deliberations may result in the erection of houses and flats on at least some of these sites.

A further difficult matter which the Council are endeavouring to solve is the question of the re-housing of a number of middle-aged and old single persons living in unsatisfactory conditions in various parts of the City.

The difficult housing position makes it virtually impossible to provide sufficient modern homes for all of these persons, and, as many of them are not desirous of leaving the centre of the town, the Council are endeavouring to provide accommodation by the adaptation of existing properties suitable for the purpose.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE DISINFECTION AND VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

58 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 39 premises where bedding and articles of clothing, etc., were also treated.

43 premises, of which 33 were council houses, were disinfested.

RODENT CONTROL.

As in previous years two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out in compliance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requirements. Routine inspections and treatments, where necessary, were carried out on all Council properties. The river banks were treated in a similar manner.

The rodent control service presents its own peculiar difficulties in an ancient town such as Durham where disused cellars and basements abound and conduits and sewers, no longer used for their original purpose, provide ideal harbourage for rats.

Every effort has been made however to keep the rat population at a minimum by carrying out the suggestions made from time to time by the Ministry concerned in this matter by carrying out the above mentioned routine work and by giving attention to all complaints of rat and mice infestations received at the Department.

The Department continues to take full advantage of the grant aid offered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to those local authorities who carry out rodent control work in accordance with that Ministry's instructions.

The following table shows the work carried out during the year in connection with this section of the Public Health Service :—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Report for period 31st March to 31st December, 1950.

1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE.

Type of Property.	Total	Number of properties in Local Authority's Area in which infestation was		Recorded Total	Analysis.		
		Notified by Occupier	Otherwise dis- covered.		Number infested by		
					Rats and Mice		Mice only
					Major	Minor	
LOCAL AUTHORITY'S PROPERTY	13	3	10	13	5	6	2
DWELLING HOUSE	5,276	29	39	68	7	51	10
BUSINESS PREMISES	702	12	40	52	16	24	12
AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY	25	2	3	5	1	4	—
TOTAL	6,016	46	96	142	29	85	24

2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORIT

Type of Property	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of notices served under Section 4		Number of treatments carried out.				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sec. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement.		
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with Occupier	Under Section 5(1)					
						Rats	Mice only	Rats		Mice only	
											Number of Blocks	No. of separate occupancies	Number of manholes treated
LOCAL AUTHORITY'S PROPERTY	13	81	—	—	11	2	—	—	—		
DWELLING HOUSE ..	127	631	—	—	58	10	—	—	25	60	35
BUSINESS PREMISES ..	94	345	—	—	40	12	—	—	8	19	11
AGRIC. PROPERTY ..	8	33	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	246	1,090	—	—	118	24	—	—	33	79	46

Surface Associated sewers

No. of separate occupancies

Number of Blocks

No. of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

Number of separate occupancies

DRAINAGE.

The following particulars relate to drainage work carried out by the Department during the year :—

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	36
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	16
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	27
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	2
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	—
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	39
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	125
Colour tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	13

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Only one trailer caravan was licensed for use as a dwelling during 1950 and was removed from the area later in the year.

In the post-war years only seven trailers have been licensed by the Council as “ moveable dwellings ” and they have mainly been used by University Students unable to obtain other accommodation. In all cases these dwellings were maintained in an excellent condition.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	25	18	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	74	61	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	3	1	—
TOTAL	103	82	11	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect'r	By H.M. Inspect'r	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	5	5	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	—	1	—
TOTAL	11	11	—	4	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The following milk dealers licences were issued by the Council under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 :—

" Pasteurised " Milk Dealers Licences	... ..	7
" Pasteurised " Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences		5
" Sterilised " Milk Dealers Licences	... ..	9

Registered premises have been inspected during the year in order to ensure that the various provisions of the Regulations were being complied with.

In one case the dairy premises were found to be unsatisfactory and the owner concerned is to erect a new dairy as soon as practicable.

ICE CREAM.

Four applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream were approved by the Council making a total of 37 premises registered for this purpose. In two cases only are premises registered for the purpose of manufacture of ice-cream.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered. As much of the condemned food as was practicable was utilised for salvage or pig-feeding.

132 lb. Bacon.	1 tin Ice Wafers.
1 tin Barley Crystals.	26 jars Jam.
1 tin Baking Powder.	3 pkts. Jelly.
168 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Beef.	16 Bottles Ketchup.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Biscuits.	4 Loaves.
1 lb. Black Pudding.	47 tins Luncheon Meat.
14 lb. Butter.	230 tins Meat.
47 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Cake.	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Margarine.
44 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Cheese.	149 tins Milk.
8 bars Chocolate.	1 tin Mincemeat.
84 pkts. Cereals.	1 Milk Pudding.

26 lb. Date	1 tin Nescafe.
13 tins Eggs.	19 pkts. Pastry Mixture.
80 Eggs.	81 Pies.
17 lb. Figs.	7 jars Pickles.
36 st. 9 lb. Fish	70 lb. Rabbit.
6 lb. Flour.	6 jars Salad Cream.
129 tins Fruit.	316½ lb. Sausage.
72 tins Fruit Juice.	15 tins Sausage.
6 Fowl.	15 tins Soup.
1 lb. Ham.	135 tins Vegetables.
	21 lb. Yeast.

FOOD PREMISES—GENERAL.

During the course of the year 221 visits were made to food premises.

Food traders continue to co-operate with the Department and promptly reported all cases where they suspected foodstuffs were unsuitable for consumption.

Lectures with particular reference to food hygiene were given to various organisations and a good deal of interest was shown in this part of the work of the Health Department. Exhibitions on loan from the Central Council for Health Education, some of them dealing with food hygiene, were exhibited in a local showroom window.

During the year under review no notifications of food poisoning were received.

The Health Committee at its December, 1950, meeting proposed that the Council adopt byelaws made under the provisions of Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The byelaws referred to represent an advance on existing legislation dealing with handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air and their adoption by the Council, which is subject to confirmation by the appropriate government department, should prove of help to this Department and guidance to the food trades generally in their combined efforts to secure a clean food supply.

SHOPS ACT, 1912-1934.

69 visits were paid to shops in order to ascertain if the provisions of the Shops Acts were being complied with. The following sanitary defects were found and subsequently remedied by the shop-keepers concerned :—

Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	...	3
To cleanse walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	—
Insufficient washing facilities	...	...	...	...	2
Other defects	...	...	...	...	10

SUMMARY OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	201
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	432
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1,016
Visits under Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	82
Visits to food shops and food premises	...	...	...	...	...	221
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	69
Visits in connection with defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	...	468
Smoke and water tests	...	...	...	...	...	164
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	168
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	27
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	58
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	39
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	44
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	27
Visits to verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	86
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	43
Interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	279
Visits to caravans	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections of rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections of common yards and passages	...	...	...	...	...	10
Inspections of public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	23
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	1,566
Miscellaneous sanitary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	311

SECTION C.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County County of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Baking Powder	1	Ice Cream	2
Bun Flour (Mite infested)	1	Icing Sugar	1
Butter	1	Jam	2
Cocoa	2	Margarine	1
Coffee	2	Marmalade	1
Coffee and Chicory ...	2	Milk	36
Cornflour	2	Pearl Barley	1
Custard Powder	1	Semolina	2
Glace Cherries	1	Shredded Beef Suet ...	1
Ground Almonds	1	Sponge Mixture	2
Ham Loaf (Informal) ...	1	Sugar	1
		Tea	2
			<hr/>
			67
			<hr/>

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. J. A. Rodwell, Chief Engineer, Durham County Water Board, has kindly submitted the following brief report on water supplies :—

“ The supply of water throughout the district has been maintained at a high standard of quality and in sufficient quantity to meet all needs, both domestic and industrial.”

“ The completion of the extended filtration plant at the Tunstall Reservoir and of the chlorination plants at Waskerley and Honey Hill Filters has resulted in the bacterial purity of the water supplied throughout the area.”

“ Further trunk mains have been laid into the Durham City and neighbouring districts and the auxiliary supply from Page Bank brought into commission, this being used in the event of emergency only.”

“ The laying of mains to all the new housing estates has been kept abreast of housing development and in the majority of cases prior to the erection of the properties to be supplied.”

“ Practically all supplies are drawn from public mains and only a few isolated properties are supplied from local (“spring or well”) sources.”

REFUSE COLLECTION, PUBLIC BATHS, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following information relating to Refuse Collection, Public Baths, Sewerage and Sewage Works has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for these undertakings.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

A regular weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained throughout the year and a trade refuse collection was put into effect in June.

The paper salvage scheme has been re-introduced following representations from the Government and Trade. This has already achieved a considerable degree of success.

The tip at Shincliffe has been a continuing source of nuisance and fires have been burning throughout the year. The burning portions are now being covered with soil and although the institution of a controlled system of tipping has been shelved due to cost, tipping is being carried out in much shallower “fingers” than before in the hope that the risk of fire might be reduced.

PUBLIC BATHS.

The four hourly turnover of the Public Baths water has been maintained throughout the year with filtration and chlorination.

The small bath and pool bottom has been repainted and notices placed in every cubicle asking intending bathers to wash their feet in the pool provided before entering the bath.

A new high diving stage has been placed in the large bath and arrangements for another small stage are well advanced.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The effluent from the works at Barkers Haugh continues to be unsatisfactory but the apparently very high cost of carrying out the works outlined in the Consultant's report remains the major obstacle in effecting any improvement.

The Sewage Works at Stonebridge continues to be grossly overloaded whilst the dairy and the laundry at Neville's Cross are working.

